



MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 | 1:15 p.m. | 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes
Rep. Phil Lyman
Rep. Michael K. McKell
Rep. Calvin R. Musselman
Rep. Mike Schultz

Rep. Casey Snider
Rep. Logan Wilde

Members Absent:

Rep. Keven J. Stratton, Chair
Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost
Rep. Joel Ferry
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Ms. Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Sidnee Bailey, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Cassidy Hansen, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Sen. Ralph Okerlund called the meeting to order.

1 . Committee Business

MOTION: Sen. Jani Iwamoto moved to approve the May 15, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-13

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. McKell
Rep. C. Musselman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. L. Wilde

Nays-0

Absent-6

Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

2 . Review of Selected Water Reports and Studies

J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, presented a review of water reports and studies and recommended water strategies.

[Recommended State Water Strategy](#)

3 . Sunset Review - Legislative Water Development Commission

Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, presented the draft legislation: "Legislative Water Development Commission Sunset Amendments."

[Draft Legislation "Legislative Water Development Commission Sunset Amendments"](#)

MOTION: Sen. David P. Hinkins moved to extend the Sunset Bill for 10 years. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-13

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. McKell
Rep. C. Musselman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. L. Wilde

Nays-0

Absent-6

Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to ammend line 121, to add "agriculture" between the words "growing" and "municipal," and add the appropriate punctuation. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-13

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. McKell
Rep. C. Musselman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. L. Wilde

Nays-0

Absent-6

Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to accept the Legislative Water Development commission Sunset Amendments as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-13

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. McKell
Rep. C. Musselman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. L. Wilde

Nays-0

Absent-6

Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

4 . Panel Discussion - Water Infrastructure Needs

Tage Flint, General Manager, and CEO, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, discussed municipal and industrial, agricultural, and secondary systems.

[Infrastructure Needs - Weber Basin Water Conservancy District](#)

Erica Gaddis, Director, Division of Water Quality, discussed the need for updating storm and waste water systems.

Marie Owens, Director, Division of Drinking Water, provided information regarding the importance of updating water infrastructure.

[Drinking Water Infrastructure](#)

5 . Panel Discussion - Great Salt Lake

Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes discussed the importance of the resources the Great Salt Lake provides.

David Livermore, Executive Director, Nature Conservancy of Utah and member of the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council, discussed the economic and environmental importance of the Great Salt Lake and the importance of maintaining adequate water levels.

Ms. Gaddis discussed the importance of the Great Salt Lake and explained the importance of water quality testing.

6 . Water Conservation/Management/Optimization and the Proposed Role of Basin Councils

Warren Peterson, Vice President, Farmland Reserve Inc., discussed the complexity of water planning and water use optimization. He also discussed the concept of creating river basin councils.

7 . Preservation of Existing Water Rights

Kent Jones, State Engineer, Director, Division of Water Rights, spoke favorably of the current water laws and the need to preserve existing water rights.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved that the committee request that the Legislative Water Development Commission study the identification and funding of water infrastructure in the state, including the repair or replacement of existing infrastructure and construction of new infrastructure needed to provide for Utah's water needs now and into the future. As time allows, we request that the commission study Great Salt Lake water policy, the possible creation of water basin councils, and other critical water policy issues the commission identifies. We request that the commission report to the committee on or before the November interim meeting, including providing proposed legislation, if any. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 7.

Yeas-12

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. C. Musselman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider

Nays-0

Absent-7

Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. J. Ferry
Rep. M. McKell
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins
Rep. L. Wilde



MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 7.

Yeas-12

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. C. Musselman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider

Nays-0

Absent-7

Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. J. Ferry
Rep. M. McKell
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins
Rep. L. Wilde